

The Hindu Organ.

"Arise! Awake! and stop not till the goal is reached."

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER IN CEYLON FOR THE HINDUS
HAS THE WIDEST CIRCULATION

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THE HINDU ORGAN.

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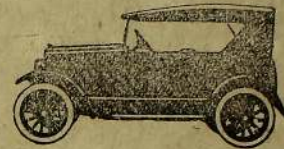
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The Hindu Organ.

JAFFNA, THURSDAY MARCH 6, 1924

PHYSICAL EXERCISE IN SCHOOLS.

It is a happy feature of present day state-aided education that provision is made in the Code for regular physical exercise in our schools and colleges. The provision is so carefully made that every student is compelled to take part in drill and games of various kinds which have a place in the time table. There can be no doubt that the drill and the games give the students an excellent training in discipline and manliness, besides furnishing them with the means of taking regular physical exercise, which is so very essential to the formation of sound minds in sound bodies. But there is, we regret, an element of disadvantage in the manner in which games are played in some educational institutions. There is often an over-indulgence in them to the great detriment of educational work, and students there are in large numbers who are prone to devote all their leisure hours during school days and the whole period of their regularly recurring holidays to playing one or another of the foreign games which have been introduced into this country. It is not our purpose to decry or discourage these games. We wish to point out to the parents and guardians of students, the managers and teachers of our schools and colleges and to the Education Department the disadvantages there are in allowing students to indulge immoderately in games. We are aware that the Education Department cannot control what takes place out of school hours. But the Department can minimise and even nullify the disadvantage we have pointed out by making school gardening compulsory in our educational institutions. While we are of opinion that games are indispensable to the giving of an all round training to our students, we feel that the fact cannot be ignored that English education has made them disregard, and even despise, agriculture, the noblest of callings and the vocation of their parents. This lamentable effect must be attributed to the wrong feeling of gentleness which English education and Western civilisation engender in them, aided by the undue popularity of Western games in our schools and colleges. We are firmly of opinion that the time has come for the Education Department to make gardening compulsory in our institutions. This will have the highly desirable effect of creating in the students a taste for agriculture, which is bound to produce changes of far-reaching consequence in the economic condition of our country. There is a Tamil saying which means that milk itself has become medicine. True to this saying, agriculture, which is so very essential to the genuine prosperity and happiness of the people of this country, will then become also a very efficacious medicine, which will cure our students completely of the false ideas of dignity they entertain regarding abstinence from it and all other forms of manual labour.

We do not think that the Department will have to face any difficulties in making school gardening compulsory in our educational institutions. Half an hour twice or thrice a week, set apart in the time table for school gardening, will effect pleasing changes not only in the school compound, but also in the minds of the students and in the economic condition of the country. It will also be an excellent means of helping the students to take good physical exercise of an interesting and useful kind. Like drawing, drill and games, school gardening should become a compulsory subject in our schools and colleges and one of the necessary conditions which should be satisfactorily fulfilled for the earning of grants.

We hope that the Education Department will consider our suggestion favourably.

NOTES & COMMENTS.

We are of opinion that temperance workers in this country are under a deep debt of obligation to Mr. V. W. Thambiiah for his timely and important letter on "The Drink Question," which is published in our last issue. It is a good proof of Mr. Thambiiah's public-spiritedness and his deep interest in temperance work in this country that he has written not only the long letter to our last

issue but several others which have appeared in these columns from time to time on the same subject. The dodges and tricks of the men whom the Government has allowed to carry on the ruinous trade in spirituous liquors should be exposed fearlessly, so that the good and brave workers in the cause of temperance in this country, whose disinterested services we regard as among the most heroic and most humane that can be done for our national uplift and amelioration, may carry on their noble work with sure and speedy chance of success. We are sure that all temperance workers will receive inspiration from Mr. Thambiiah's concluding words that total prohibition is our final goal and that we are determined to reach this goal.

The letter by "Ceylonese" of Klang, F. M. S., published in our last issue on "The Late Sir P. Arunachalam," cannot fail to touch the hearts of the readers. It shows clearly the feelings of deep sorrow and disappointment which smote at least of our countrymen in the Malaya Peninsula have felt—sorrow at the death of our great leader, and disappointment at the failure of public bodies and men in this country to intimate promptly to our people in the far off country the very sad loss the Tamil community in Ceylon has sustained. This is a very regrettable omission of an urgent and important duty by our public bodies and men. We appreciate the spirit in which "Ceylonese" has written his letter. Such spirit and such feelings, if shown by the vast majority of our people in our own country and abroad, will, we are sure, go a great way towards strengthening the bonds that knit them together and ensuring national solidarity.

LOCAL & GENERAL.

THE 1925 PEARL FISHERY.—We understand that announcements will be made in a few weeks as to whether a pearl fishing will be possible in 1925. The first inspection has already been started and the results obtained thus far indicate a possibility of there being a fishing next year.

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.—Two boys of Elalai were seized and given to the Police some days back in the Jaffna town where they took a printed subscription card to collect subscriptions, having forged the signature of a celebrity. The subscription list is one of those printed and circulated by the catechist some time back for collecting a fund in aid of the construction of a church at Elalai. The younger of the two boys was tried at the Jaffna Police court on Thursday the 28th ultimo and was sentenced to receive twelve cuts on the back with a cane. The other boy was sentenced the next day to the same punishment after a trial at the Mallegam Police Court.

CEYLON SOCIETY OF ARTS.—The annual general meeting of this society will be held on Wednesday the 19th instant at 5.30 P. M. at the Library of the Colombo Museum. On the occasion of this meeting the successful entries sent in for the British Empire Exhibition art and craft competition, organised by the Society of Arts Committee will be on view.

ALL INDIA AYURVEDIC CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION.—We learn that Mr. Vaidyaratna Kaviraj Jotinada Nath Sa, M. A., Vaidyabhusan of Calcutta, who was elected President of the Medical Conference to be held for three days commencing on the 25th of April, 1924, has accepted the appointment and is expected to arrive in Colombo on the 24th proximo. Several other distinguished men from India are expected to be present at the Conference and Exhibition. The 12 members of the local Finance Committee have taken upon themselves the task of collecting a sum of Rs. 5000 to meet the expenses of the Conference and Exhibition. Sir A. Kanakasabhai has also become a member of the Reception Committee.

NORTHERN PROVINCES ELECTORATE.—1. The Northern Division shall be composed of the Uvaipur Division of Panditaripon of Valigam West and of Valigam North. 2. The Southern Division shall consist of the Managira Division of Jaffna, Parurayan and Turakkal and the Revenue District of Manar. 3. Vadamaradchi West (excluding Pottas Vadamaradchi of Karanavay South, Vadamaradchi East, Pachchilippattai, Karachchi and the Revenue District of Mullaitivu shall make up the Eastern Division. 4. The Western Division shall contain the Island of Dala, the Islands and Valigam West excluding the Uvaipur Division of Panditaripon. 5. The Central Division shall include Valigam East, Tammaradchi, and Pottas Vadamaradchi of Karanavay South of Vadamaradchi West.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING IN GALLE.—The work in connection with the proposed electric lighting scheme for the town of Galle has already been taken in hand. The work is expected to be completed by the end of this year. When the scheme is put into operation, the Municipality is of opinion that a sum of Rs. 12000 can be realised in the first year.

THE BURGER ELECTORATE.—Messrs. M. S. Christoffelz, I. S. O., C. E. de Vos and L. E. Baze have been nominated by His Excellency the Governor to be an Advisory Board for the Burger Electorate.

NEW METHOD OF ROAD PAVING.—It is reported that a new machine which will soon appear on the Colombo roads will herald the introduction of a new method of road paving in such a way as to effectively combat the dust nuisance.

COLLEGE OF PROPRIETORS EXAMINATIONS.—The results of these examinations are out, the number of candidates successful in the Senior, Junior and Preliminary being one, five and three respectively.

DISABLED CEYLON MEN'S FUND.—There is now Rs. 46359.88 to the credit of this fund. It is gratifying to note that this fund is steadily increasing as the result of the liberal subscriptions of different firms and private individuals.

THE ATCHUVALY.—Y. M. S. A.—Under the auspices of the above Sangam a very interesting and eloquent lecture on "Education" was delivered by Mr. Kanappappillai, Astrologer of the same place, on Saturday the 1st instant. Remarks were offered by Messrs. S. S. Chelliah, K. Sumantharam and the Chairman, Mr. S. Ticeam Chellappillai. The meeting came to a close at about 10 p. m. with the usual singing of Devaram.—Cor.

MULLAITIVU MAHA JANA READING HALL.—The inauguration ceremony of the above reading hall took place on the 1st instant at about 6 p. m. with much eclat. It was a grand success. There was a Pandal erected for the occasion in front of the hall, and more than 200 visitors and well-wishers were present. The reason why such a vast assembly was attracted was not the attractiveness of the demonstrations alone, but the fact that the Reading Hall is meant for all people. It is meant not only for the English educated people but also for the Tamil knowing farmers and shopkeepers. Arrangements are being made to get down at least 3 daily and bi-weekly Tamil papers together with a good number of select books in Tamil. Many of the members who belong to the Mullaitivu Reading Room and Recreation Club have joined this in order to give financial support to the reading hall. The President, Mr. T. M. Sabaretnam, Proctor, S. C. hoisted the Union Jack and delivered his inaugural address in English and in Tamil. Letters from outstations and absent members were then read by the Secretary of the reading hall. The President opened the hall formally, and Tamil songs composed for the occasion by the poet secretary were sung to the accompaniment of musical instruments. The Honorary Secretary Mr. S. Sabapathy, author of Thilakavathy and other Tamil works, then addressed the Meeting in Tamil. Mr. T. E. Selvadurai of the Mullaitivu Kachcheri also offered some remarks which were calculated to encourage such an undertaking. Light refreshments were then served to all present. We wish the reading hall every success.—Cor.

A DEFENCE OF OLD THEORIES.

By K. CHINSAPIAR.

No theory deserves to be considered valuable merely because it is old. By old theories I mean those which were once universally held, but which are now displaced by new ones. It is our contention that very often a new theory gains admission into the world on account of its novelty. There is a wrong notion entertained by people that a new theory is invariably an improvement on the old one which it is intended to supplant. These are days when people have, as it were, a thirst for something out of the ordinary. In all departments of life we hear of new theories being propounded on subjects which are of vital importance to the welfare of men. World it not be advisable for us to apply these new theories to various cases under different conditions and see whether they are workable in actual life, before giving them general acceptance?

We manifest a lack of soundness of mind when we uphold theories which, we are told, are based on innumerable experiments, but which we find in our experience to be utterly impracticable. Experiments of which theories are generally the outcome cannot always be regarded as an unimpeachable proof of their validity, for these experiments are often held on subjects and under conditions that are quite different from those of cases in many respects. Are we then justified in pleading the cause of theories which are not suited to our environment? Many theories are so-called holy-law authority and applied solemnly in the place of old ones which have long been our guiding principles. Advance in years does not necessarily mean progress in civilisation, culture and everything else that tends to elevate man. We are supposed to be living in an advanced age. It is true to a certain extent, as can be easily seen by a comparison of the state of things at present with that of the past. But we should not on that account blindly bring every change under the category of elevating influences.

Religion and education may be taken among others as realms in which men have discarded many an old theory, which have stood the test of age, in their zeal for new ones which are apparently suitable to their present modes of living. How ardent and pious some men appear to be, when they deliberately give their own interpretations to certain religious theories established by truly great religious teachers! This they evidently do with a view to making certain religious theories suit their present peculiar ways of living which are supposed to be governed by religious principles. Everything in religion which necessitates a certain amount of self-control and self-sacrifice is put down as superstition, and is ignored under that pretext. There are some people who even go to the extent of saying that certain religious theories ought to be understood and professed not in accordance with what the inspired founders of these wanted us to do, but in a modified form to suit the conditions prevailing now in different countries. They seem to forget that the truths contained in any religion worthy of the name ought to be eternally and universally valid and should as such be adhered to with reverence whatever may be the sacrifice a practice of them may involve. Religious doctrines formulated by great religious teachers who were living in constant communion with God are too sacred to be twisted and interpreted in a way that will suit our convenience. We should always seek the grace of God to resist the temptation caused by perverted religious doctrines which appeal to us on account of their non-interference with our present undesirable materialistic tendencies.

Educational theories are undergoing reconstruction at a rapid rate. There is every likelihood of what we now call sound educational principles being ignored as worthless in the future. Educationalists in different parts of the world are vying with one another with all the zeal at their command to establish new theories. A large number of books on the methods of teaching and other subjects bearing on education are produced every year with the result that what is regarded as up to date this year is liable to be thrown out as out of date next year. These are days of experiments. In some quarters of the globe certain experiments are performed with the idea of circulating new theories throughout the world. The doctrines when seen in print are at once hailed by the world, and they soon become the order of the day. Theories which have been successfully applied in practice for centuries are regarded as being behind the times and as such of little value. Sometimes, thoughtful educationalists, in their great disappointment, carry on in vain counter-experiments to prove the validity of certain old theories, which, in spite of their soundness, are apt to be disregarded.

It is true that theories are all tentative. It is no wonder that certain old theories are found to fall in the face of scientific facts as they are today. But we should not, therefore, despise all old theories indiscriminately. It cannot be denied that old theories have had, and some of them do still have, their own value. New theories cannot stand unless they have old ones as their foundations. In many cases, new theories are the same as old ones in their essential principles, but are only worded more accurately and fascinatingly. So let us not dismiss old theories wholesale, as we have a tendency to do in these days. At the same time let us always be ready to accept and practice without prejudice new theories the fundamental principles underlying which are sound and not unworthy of our being so. The only point to be remembered is that we should not be too ready to condemn old theories and welcome new ones without subjecting the latter to a real test suitable to the existing conditions.

THE SARASWATHY LITERARY ASSOCIATION, WELLAWATTE.

HELP YEARLY CELEBRATIONS.

As previously announced the Half-Yearly Celebrations of the above Association came off on Saturday last at the Polytechnic, Wellawatte, commencing at 3.30 p. m. There was a very large attendance of members and visitors from all parts of Colombo including some of the distinguished leaders of the Tamil and the Singhalese Communities. After the Business Meeting which went on till 4.30 p. m., there was an oratorical contest both in English and in Tamil. The Hon'ble Mr. James Peiris, Mr. E. T. de Silva and G. S. Madayyar A. G. Thilakaratne acted as Judges for the English contest. Mr. M. C. Nadarajah was declared the winner of the prize offered by Mr. O. Thangarajah, and the Hon'ble Mr. James Peiris congratulated the winner in a short speech and handed over the prize. For the Tamil contest Messrs. A. Chellappan, G. Sivaprakasam, and M. Thambiiah acted as Judges, and Mr. S. Thilliar became successful, and was awarded the prize offered by Mr. A. Chellappan. At the close of the contest, the audience having become exceedingly large, the meeting assembled on the lawn in front of the Polytechnic rooms for the rest of the evening. Light refreshments were lavishly served, and meanwhile a band of musicians specially invited for the occasion entertained the proceedings with select songs. Mr. E. T. de Silva next addressed the gathering, and in a forcible and eloquent speech exhorted the audience

to take to the study of the vernaculars dealing at length on the immediate necessity for the formation of what may be called an intellectual club, where the best brains of the land may meet. His great earnestness and sincerity impressed the audience very much. This was followed by the staging of a Scene from Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice, but the most successful item of the day was the staging of selected scenes from Ramayana. The stage specially erected for the purpose presented a gay appearance, and the performance was very much appreciated by the audience signified by their frequent clapping of hands and applause. Almost all the actors came off well, and for two hours all present had a perfectly happy entertainment. Late in the night at about 10 p.m. the meeting came to a close.

The celebrations on the whole were a grand success—the first of its kind at Wallawatte, and revealed the immense possibilities of the Association. —Cor.

THE 62ND BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF SRIMAT SWAMI VIVEKANANDA KUALA LUMPUR.

The occasion of the 62nd Birthday Anniversary of Srimat Swami Vivekananda was celebrated by his devotees and admirers on Sunday, the 3rd February, 1924 with deep religious fervour and intense enthusiasm at the Vivekananda Ashrama, Kuala Lumpur, F. M. S.

The precincts of the Ashrama were decorated with evergreens and creepers, ferns and flowers, and with the emblem of Saranata Dharma flying high aloft in the centre of the entrance. Inside the hall three miniature hills were erected, with tall trees on two sides and with a lotus lake in front, bordered by beautiful gardens. On the bank of this lake was placed the portrait of the Swami, while mottoes and sayings of Sri Rama Krishna Dasa and his disciples were hung all over the buildings. The whole place was also illuminated with electric lights of variegated colours.

From morning commencing even as early as 4 a.m., Bhajana parties attended with music, from the suburbs of the town, each taking with them a decorated photo of Swamiji, marched in processions along the streets, singing pious songs. These parties met at the Mariamman Kovil and Kandaswamy Kovil, and the necessary homages having been paid, proceeded towards the Ashrama in a combined procession. The Bhajana parties arrived at the Ashrama at 9 a.m. and continued their music till 11 a.m.

The most important feature of the day's programme, the feeding of the Poor Narayanas, commenced at about 11.30 a.m. under the newly erected tent Swami Vivekanandaji personally looked after the comforts and wants of the several thousands of Poor Narayanas that came there on the occasion, and all of them were sumptuously fed by a body of organised young volunteers. Unlike the previous years, there were more Poor Narayanas this year, including a few Chinese and Malays. Shortly after the feeding was over, clothes to the deserving poor numbering about 400 were distributed at 5.30 p.m. While feeding and clothing were going on, the Hari Katha Kalkachepam with accompaniment of music was recited in the Hall from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The public meeting commenced at 6.30 p.m. with the chanting of Devaram, the presidential chair being occupied by Mr. Sant Singh. There were present Swami Vivekanandaji, Brahmachari Buddha Chaitanya and a large audience of Indians and Ceylonese and a few Europeans, Chinese and Malays. The Chairman after a brief introduction called upon Mr. C. Chandrapillai to deliver his lecture in Tamil on the Life of Swami Vivekananda, and it was highly appreciated. The speaker alluded to many an incident in the Swami's life and referred to the latter's kind disposition, his bold and fearless attitude and his universal teaching best suited to the times. He proved the harmony of all religions by preaching the common unity of Vedic ideals underlying the apparent divergent practices then current. He strained every nerve to raise the depressed, the poor, the degraded and the miserable.

Mr. K. A. Narayan Iyer then spoke in English on the Life of the Swamiji and His Mission. The speaker ran through the important stages of the Swamiji's life history introducing curious anecdotes expressive of the character of the Swami as the man, the Saint, and the Prophet. He brought out some peculiar traits in his character, particularly laying stress on his deep and profound study of religious questions on the lines of scientific reasonings. He laid emphasis on the oneness of the various conflicting thought systems then current. He knew that modern needs in India would not be accomplished unless and until the masses were touched. So it was that he started his intense campaign of practical Vedanta with its manifold activities of life. In the Swami was embodied the four cardinal principles of Hinduism—those of Insight, Contemplation, Love and Service. He realised that Hinduism demanded the hand of an organiser, and he set himself to the work consolidating the position and marched on with a decided programme to meet the needs of the time, which was a religious, universal

OPEN LETTER TO MR. A. MAHADEVA, Jaffna.

Sir, We the undersigned take this opportunity to respectfully bring to your notice that since Mr. T. Ramanathan, a resident of the Central Division, and coming from a family well-known to us, has come forward to contest the seat with you, we and others associated with us feel it our duty to stand by him. Therefore we are obliged to painfully withdraw our promise given to you to support you. Suffice it to say that we could not possibly have given our consent to you had we only been aware of the likelihood of Mr. T. Ramanathan's candidature. Under these circumstances, we trust, you will excuse us.

NAME.	OCCUPATION.	RESIDENCE.
K. Appucity	Merchant	Urupparai
S. Thambiah	Renter	"
S. Arunasalam	Physician	"
M. Velloppillai	Farmer	"
M. Sivasubba	"	"
S. Kasippillai	Merchant	"
S. Kumaraswamy	Merchant	"
R. Vallipuram	"	"
A. Arunasalam	Physician	"
R. Sanathersajah	Farmer	"
S. Kandiah	Landed Proprietor	"
V. Nagalingam	"	"
K. Sidamparapillai	"	"
S. Comaraswamy	"	Kopsy
K. Arumngam	"	"
K. Kanagasabai	Merchant	Shupiddy
K. Thanotharampillai	Landed Proprietor	Pattur
M. Sionappu	"	Karanavai South
C. Chelliahpillai (Thickam)	"	Athokuvilly
K. Rajakulasurier	"	"
S. John Rajah	Registrar of Births & Deaths	"
T. Thanbymentpillai	Editor	"
K. Valupillai	"	Urupparai
S. Valupillai	Physician	Valalay
T. Arulampalam	Landed Proprietor	"
S. Arunasalam	"	Avarangal
V. Chelliah	Physician	"
V. Maitvagasam	Landed Proprietor	Mesalai
S. Kandiah	"	"
M. Valupillai	"	Mantuvil
V. Subramaniam	Physician	Thar, Iyuttalai
V. Sidamaranathan	Landed Proprietor	Verani
T. Vaithilingam	"	Madduvil
A. Sinniah	"	Navatkuli
S. Saravananattu	Teacher	"
S. Sandarasegaram	Landed Proprietor	"
S. Kulanthavadiyalu	"	Maravanpalam
R. Hall	Notary Public	Obavakachcheri
K. Vallipuram	Merchant	"
N. Selvadurai	Landed Proprietor	Kachay
A. Gnanasagaram	Physician	Sarasalai
V. Thampan	Landed Proprietor	Nuvavil
S. Ponnapalam	"	Vidattatpalam

P. S. This procedure adopted by us, we are confident, will help you to release yourself of the commitment, besides giving you entire liberty to contest the Colombo Tamil Seat to which you are eminently fitted.

Jaffna, 23rd Feby. 1924. Sgd. M. V.

in its ideals, and practice, capable of embracing the different types of minds and methods. He concluded his address with a reference to the meaning of these Birthday celebrations and exhorted his hearers to assimilate the ideals of such lives, put them to daily practice, and conscientiously assist in the onward progress of the Mission's work.

The Chairman in his concluding remarks referred among other things to the service rendered by the Swamiji to Hinduism at the "Parliament of religions." It was at that parliament at Calcutta that Swamiji made known to the West what Hinduism was. Hinduism tolerates any form of religion, but be it agnosticism, atheism, Mohammedanism, Buddhism, or Christianity.

Mr. Kanappillai in thanking all those who have contributed towards the success of the day's function drew particular attention to certain traits of Swamiji's teachings, that all embracing and universal nature of the Truths of the true religion. He appealed to the audience to bear them in mind for at least another year to come. The meeting then came to a close at 9.10 p.m. with the singing of Devaram. —Cor.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MORE THAMIL AND BETTER THAMIL.

Sir, Mr. Danham's favourite dictum has to some extent produced the wholesome effect of making our schoolmasters take greater interest in and pay more attention to the teaching of English. But the scant recognition of the vernacular in the English schools is a defect in our present day education which must be remedied at once.

In the higher examinations of our English Schools and Colleges Tamil is only an optional subject, and the result is that the students' vernacular has become a neglected subject. Neither the teacher nor the pupil pays the attention which is our mother tongue deserves. The teaching of Tamil has been far from satisfactory, and this has been in no small measure due to the nature of the questions set by the Cambridge and London University examiners. By giving undue importance to translating passages of poetry and prose into English, the students own mother-tongue has been put in the same boat as the dead language, Latin, which is only an aid to the mastery of English. No student cares to observe the beauties and peculiarities of style; nor does he imbibe the sweet thoughts and sage sayings contained

in the books he reads. Invariably, a student who is good in English passes in Tamil despite his inability to write or speak simple and exact Tamil. Reform in the direction of framing questions to create and test the students' appreciation of the literary and cultural characteristics of the Tamil authors is an urgent need. The sooner it is done the better.

An optional subject has its own limitations. Unless it is made compulsory, the promotion of Tamil education is only a dream. Advocates of classical languages and devoted students of English are arrayed against Sinhalese and Tamil being made compulsory in the school curriculum. They are blind, consciously or unconsciously, to the untold benefits that would accrue to a country by making her future citizens imbibe and imbibe the spirit of our forefathers as revealed to us in the priceless treasures they have left behind them as legacies. Why don't they take a leaf from the system of education prevalent in the model state of Mysore?

However, we are not entirely without hopes. We live in a world of progress and there shall be a change in the angle of vision. Fortunately, there are in our midst societies for guarding the interests dear to us. The Hindu Board of Education will do well to undertake the management of the Hindu Vernacular School's scattered throughout the Peninsula and establish new schools where they are urgently needed. In addition to counteracting the evil influence of missionary education, the Board could better the teaching of Tamil by suitable suggestions and strict supervision. Another means of improving the vernacular education in Jaffna is by encouraging our Tamil scholars to write good novels, good biographies, and good essays in exact Tamil without being marred by the undesirable elements of English and Sanskrit words, as is the case with the majority of the books published in South India. Prizes and medals may be awarded to the best book of its kind. The initiative should be taken by the Saira Paripalana Sabha and the newly formed Hindu Board of Education. The scarcity of good Tamil books is a serious defect. Lack of enthusiasm for one's own mother-tongue is a palpable mark of national degeneracy.

To stem the tide of demoralisation it is to fulfil a divine mission. Whoever undertakes this noble task shall be blessed by "God above and saints below!"

Yours truly, T. RAMALINGAM.

THE ORDER-IN-COUNCIL PROGRAMMATIC.

Continued from our last issue. XXIV.—(1) The Governor may from time to time appoint such persons as he may think fit to perform the duties of revising officers under the rules contained in Schedule I. to this Order.

(2) The Governor shall assign to each such officer the electoral districts or districts for which he shall be the revising officer. XXV.—The registers of voters for the time being in operation shall be conclusive evidence for the purpose of determining whether a person is or is not entitled to vote in an electoral district for the election of a member to represent the constituency to which such register relates.

XXVI.—(1) No person shall be qualified to have his name entered on any register of voters in any year if such person— (a) is not a British subject; or (b) is a female; or (c) is not of the age of 21 years; or (d) is unable to read and write English, Sinhalese, or Tamil; or (e) has not, during the whole of a period of six months immediately prior to the commencement of the preparation of the register, resided in the electoral district to which the register relates; or (f) has been sentenced in any part of His Majesty's Dominions to death or penal servitude, or to imprisonment for an offence punishable with hard labour or rigorous imprisonment for a term exceeding twelve months, unless he shall have suffered the punishment to which he has been sentenced or such other punishment as by competent authority may be substituted for the same or shall have received a free pardon from His Majesty; or

(g) has been adjudged by a competent court to be of unsound mind; or (h) does not have or hold one of the following qualifications, viz:— (i) The possession or enjoyment of a clear annual income of not less than Rs. 600, such possession or enjoyment having subsisted during the whole of a period of six months immediately prior to the commencement of the preparation of the register; or (ii) The ownership of immovable property, either in his own right, or in right of his wife (but not as lessee or usufructuary mortgagee), situate within the electoral district to which the register relates during the whole of a period of six months immediately prior to the commencement of the preparation of the register, the value of which, after allowing for any mortgage debts thereon, is not less than Rs. 1,500;

(iii) The occupation as owner or tenant during the whole of a period of six months immediately prior to the commencement of the preparation of the register of any house, warehouse, counting-house, shop, or other building (hereinafter referred to as qualifying property), situate within the electoral district to which the register relates, of the annual value of not less than— (a) Rs. 400 if situate within the limits of any Municipal, Local Board, or Sanitary Board town or of any Urban District Council; (b) Rs. 200 if situate elsewhere.

Provided that the qualifying property need not be throughout the period of qualification the same property if the annual value is in no case less than Rs. 400 or Rs. 200, as the case may be, and if such property is in all cases situated within such area as aforesaid.

(2) The terms "house, warehouse, counting-house, shop, or other building" include any part of a building when that part is separately occupied for the purposes of any trade, business, or profession; and any such part may, for the purpose of describing the qualification, be described as office, chambers, studio, or by any like term applicable to the case.

3. Where an occupier is entitled to the sole and exclusive use of any part of a building, that part shall not be deemed to be occupied otherwise than separately by reason only that the occupier is entitled to the joint use of some other part.

4. Residence in an electoral district or the occupation of a house shall not be deemed to be interrupted for the purposes of this article by reason only of permission being given for the occupation of the house as a furnished house by some other person on a monthly tenancy at will, or on a lease for a period not exceeding five months in the whole, or by reason only of notice to quit being served and possession being demanded by the landlord of the house, or by reason only of the fact that such residence has been interrupted by absence in the performance of any duty accruing from or incidental to any office, service, or employment held or undertaken by any person otherwise qualified to have his name entered on any register.

5. The commencement of the preparation of the register of voters shall be deemed to be the date on which a notification is published in the Government Gazette calling upon all persons desirous of having their names entered in the register of voters to forward their claims to the registering officer.

(To be continued.)

THE CONVENTION.

DR. BESANT'S PROPAGANDA.

Bombay, Feb. 23.

At a crowded meeting in the Phoenix Theatre this evening with Mr. Jomardis Dwarakadas in the chair, Dr. Annie Besant delivered a lecture on the National Convention.

The lecturer began by tracing the history of the idea of such a convention first suggested two years ago at a meeting of 1921 in Madras. India must seriously consider the question of making her own constitution; for the first time the last time that she would approach Westminster for Parliamentary sanction.

She mentioned that there were now about 140 members in the various legislatures of India who had taken the pledge and their right to speak on behalf of the nation could not be challenged.

Referring to the Round Table Conference proposed by the Swarajists she explained her own position which was one of opposition as she did not think the Government should have any part in the formation of India's scheme.

In concluding Dr. Besant paid a great tribute to the personal of the Labour Cabinet. She expressed in the peroration to the audience to consider her views carefully for they were based on experience of fifty years of public life.

—The Hindu.

JAINO PILGRIMAGE.

MAHATMA ON HIS MESSAGE.

Poona, Feb. 28.

Mr. Gandhi with a view to clear some misunderstandings about his letter to the Akalis states as follows:—

I have just read a paragraph in the news column of the "Bombay Chronicle" of the 29th February about the Jaino tragedy in which it is suggested that my open letter to the Akali Sikhs is based on wrong information supplied to me and that in this respect people mostly suspect Jai Lalajpat Rai.

Considerable excitement and enthusiasm was evinced by a large crowd of Sikhs, both ladies and gentlemen assembled in front of Akal Takht this afternoon to watch the departure of the second Shehidi Jatha or Martyrs band.

the fact that the previous Jatha had been fired upon the gathering within the precincts of the Golden Temple was overwhelming and beyond all calculation.

The ceremonies in front of Akal Takht were delayed by more than two hours owing to the fact that some workers of the S.G.P.C. had not in conclusion to consider as to what steps they should take with regard to the message of Mr. Gandhi advising them to desist from sending this Jatha.

Eventually at about 2 p.m. the Jatha was sent off in front of Akal Takht. Some speeches were made by the Akali leaders who pointed out that Government had interrupted Akhand Paant and when Jatha had gone to rest it had been fired upon.

It was at about 5.30 p.m. that it left the premises and passed through the city in a procession carrying five big flags marked with Akali emblems, 5 of the Jatha leading it with long swords held up in their hands and headed by an Akali band.

Larger crowds had thronged throughout the route greeting the Jatha with ovation and at different places it was entertained to sweets and other refreshments. Greeting or holy scripture was also carried along with it in a nicely covered yellow palanquin.

It is understood that the S.G.P.C. is taking special precautions to ward off crowds from joining the Jatha up to its destination.

THE CASUALTIES.

It is now understood that the number of dead and wounded picked up on February 21st after Jaito affair amounted respectively to 14 and 34. Subsequently five of the wounded died making deaths 19 and wounded 29.

FUNERAL M. L. C. S. TO COME.

All elected members of the Punjab Council will hold a meeting to-morrow at 12.30 p.m. at the Council Chamber to consider the situation in the Punjab by the recent shooting at Jaito as in their opinion the situation threatens to become very serious.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 5320.

In the Matter of the Estate of the late Thangamattu wife of Selliah of Udavil Deceased.

Murugesu Selliah of Udavil Petitioner.

Vs. 1. Nagarathnam daughter of Selliah 2. Selliah Nadarasa and 3. Valliammal widow of Sappas Siamantamby of Udavil Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the above-named Petitioner, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased coming on for disposal before G.W. Woodhouse Esquire, District Judge, on February 5, 1924 in the presence of Mr. E. Murugesampillai, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated November 27, 1923, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is the lawful husband of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before March 11, 1924 show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

February 9, 1924. G. W. Woodhouse, District Judge. O. 620.

Order Nisi.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA.

Testamentary Jurisdiction No. 5303.

In the Matter of the estate of the late Kamalappiammah widow of Hanay Alayar Babapathy Kurukkal of Thumpalati Deceased.

Ramasamy Alayar Alayural Kurukkal of Changanai Petitioner.

Vs. 1. Makatheva Kurukkal Muttusamy Kurukkal of Thumpalati and 2. Anakkuddyamma widow of Kamapathy Kurukkal of Changanai Respondents.

This matter of the Petition of the above-named Petitioner, praying for Letters of Administration to the estate of the above-named deceased, Kamalappiammah, coming on for disposal before G. W. Woodhouse Esquire, District Judge, on February 11, 1924, in the presence of Mr. S. Sittampalam, Proctor, on the part of the Petitioner and the affidavit of the Petitioner dated February 8, 1924, having been read, it is declared that the Petitioner is one of the heirs of the said intestate and is entitled to have Letters of Administration to the estate of the said intestate issued to him unless the Respondents or any other person shall, on or before March 11, 1924, show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

February 15, 1924. G. W. Woodhouse, District Judge. O. 639.

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